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## Letter, 1864 February 6, Oscar D. Ladley to Mother and Sisters [Catherine, Mary, and Alice Ladley]

Oscar D. Ladley

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Folly Island I. C.  
Feb. 6th 1864.

Dear Mother & Sisters,

I received your letter  
of June 17th a few days ago, but  
could not answer it immediately  
for the reason that I was on duty  
with a fatigue party on Coler Island  
for ten days and have just been  
relieved. I had a detail of fifty  
men building a "Causway or dike" from  
Coler Is. to Horse shoe Is. about 300 yds  
in length. We were right in the picket  
line and could see the rebel pickets  
on James Island very distinctly, as they  
were only about 800 yds from us.  
They did not disturb us at all nor  
we them. On last Saturday they threw  
a few shells at us but did no  
damage, we kept on at work the  
same as though nothing had happened.



Part of the time we worked on  
a "Redoubt" farther to our right, which  
Command a bridge connecting Coles with  
James Islands, and while there the  
rebels unmasked two earth works not  
a thousand yards from us, as yet  
they have no guns mounted in them  
or we would have had hot work for a  
while. Our work is as far advanced  
as theirs and it will be a race  
between us and the next fellow  
gets through first. At this point  
all flags of truce communicate.

There is a look out here from which  
we can see Charleston very plain,  
Fort Sumpter, James Island Batteries.  
We were at work clear days at the  
front a distance from Camp of about  
three miles. We took tents with  
us and camped near our work.  
This morning all the troops on this  
(Jolly) Island were reviewed by  
Brig. Gen. Lee. Every thing of that  
kind takes place on the beach.



at low tide.

Gen. Gilmore 2d. Div. are now at  
Hilton Head. Gen. Terry commands  
the further division of this Dept.  
Gen. Ames commands the Island.  
I intend going up on Morris Island  
one of these days to take a view  
of the surroundings.

An Expedition left Hilton Head  
a few days ago for parts unknown.  
We will hear from it in a few  
weeks.

We are looking for a mail to-  
day and I will finish when  
I hear what there is for me.

Feb 7th The mail arrived. I got your letter of  
Jan 24th and was glad to get it.

Our Division leave here to night on some kind  
of an Expedition, will be gone probably a week  
or more. We are having very pleasant weather  
just now. Our Veterans will start for  
this in the course of a week or it maybe  
two weeks. John Ginn is well, as are  
all that you know. Stephen Hany has



not been heard from, and  
do not know where he is.

My Respects to all

Affectionately  
O.D. Ladley